

Message Text

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ACTION IO-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 PA-01 L-01 AF-04 NSC-05 NSCE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4471

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 13444

LIMDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY LEWIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AORG, OCON, UNESCO

SUBJECT: US INITIATIVE FOR DEPOLITICIZATION

REF: STATE 290134

1. ON NOVEMBER 29 I MET WITH M'BOW FOR WELL OVER AN HOUR, HAVING INSISTED ON THIS DATE IN ORDER AFFECT HIS NOVEMBER 30 SPEECH IN ANY WAY IF COULD. HE WAS POLITE, WARM, BUT NOT PARTICULARLY HELPFUL RE DEPOLITICIZATION.

2. DURING COURSE OF CONVERSATION WE HAD A COMPLETE REVIEW OF PRINCIPAL ISSUES AT GC. I EXPRESSED OUR GRATITUDE FOR ROLE HE PLAYED AND FOR THAT OF COLLEAGUES CLOSE TO HIM. OUR INITIAL ASSESSMENT OF CONFERENCE RESULTS, I SAID, WAS THAT RE ISSUES OF GREAT CONCERN TO US WE HAD MADE SOME HEADWAY (ISRAEL MEMBERSHIP AND MEDIA) BUT THAT THE GENERAL ASSESSMENT IN THE US WAS LIKELY TO BE CAUTIOUS, TENTATIVE, AND SOMETHING SHORT OF SATISFACTION. I REFERRED TO THE TIMES EDITORIAL AND EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT THIS TYPE OF STATEMENT WILL ASSIST US IN OUR ATTEMPT TO DEFUSE ISSUES. HOWEVER, WE NEED ALL OF THE ASSISTANCE WE CAN GET AND ARE
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NOW ASSEMBLING ALL EVIDENCE WE CAN FROM GC PROCEEDINGS,

INCLUDING HIS REMARKS AT BEGINNING OF SESSION AND HOPEFULLY HIS REMARKS ON NOVEMBER 30. (PRIOR TO THE MEETING KABORE WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO LOOK ME UP AND ADVISE THAT I SHOULD MAKE NO REFERENCE TO M'BOW CONCLUDING SPEECH OR THAT IF I INSISTED, I SHOULD DO SO MOST GINGERLY). IN SHORT, I STRESSED THAT WE HAVE A PROBLEM, AS HE WELL KNOWS, ARE APPRECIATIVE OF HIS EFFORTS (SUCH AS DNG) TO HELP US, BUT AT THIS TIME THE PROBLEM IS NOT SOLVED.

3. M'BOW'S COURTEOUS REPLY, I HAVE DONE ABOUT ALL THAT I CAN TO HELP YOU AND HOPE THAT YOU HAVE SUCCESS IN RESOLVING ISSUES. IN FACT, WE HAD NOT HELPED OURSELVES BY OUR "RIGID" STAND ON THE MEDIA ISSUE, THOUGH HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HE'S VERY HAPPY THIS ONE TEMPORARILY SOLVED. MORE IMPORTANT, ON THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND JERUSALEM ISSUES, WE WERE SIMPLY INSISTING ON THE UNATTAINABLE. HE MUST ALSO TELL ME THAT HE WAS NOT PLEASED WITH OUR POSITION ON THE WORKING CAPITAL FUND AND GENERAL BUDGET. AS FOR THE DNG, HE IS NOT CERTAIN OF ITS FUTURE UTILITY; AT ANY RATE, ITS OPERATION HERE COST HIM DEARLY.

4. HE MADE NO COMMITMENT ABOUT THE NOVEMBER 30 SPEECH AND GAVE NO INDICATION OF ITS CONTENTS, THOUGH I AM RELIABLY INFORMED THAT BULK OF SPEECH WAS WRITTEN AFTER OUR CONVERSATION.

5. TO EACH OF HIS POINTS I MADE APPROPRIATE REPLIES, BUT I DO NOT THINK THAT I MOVED HIM TO TAKE ANY COURSE THAT HE HAD NOT ALREADY DECIDED TO TAKE.

6. AT THIS WRITING WE ARE PREPARING TO LISTEN TO THE SPEECH, WHICH OF COURSE WILL BE REPORTED BY SEPTTEL. FACT IS I EXPECT SOME HELPFUL STATEMENTS IN THE SPEECH, BUT WE MAY ALSO GET A SURPRISE OR TWO AS WE DID IN THE INTIAL SPEECH. THE POLARIZATION OF DELEGATIONS ON THE IOC DR AT THE VERY END OF THIS MORNING'S SESSION (RESULTS REPORTED SEPTTEL) IS BOUND TO HAVE A CERTAIN INFLUENCE ON THE DG. HIS STATEMENTS DURING THE DEBATE INDICATED CONTEMPT FOR WHAT HE REGARDED AS WESTERN NITPICKING.

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